Avenue canteen of MPs. The performance of canteen has been satisfactory. Management of South avenue canteen has been licensed out to a private licensee by the Lok Sabha Secretariat since July 2001. As regards catering services in Shramjeevi and Lichhvi Express trains, the services are managed through private licensees and the food is supplied to the travelling passengers as per prescribed norms. Complaints received are investigated and disciplinary/punitive action taken against the defaulters, wherever deficiencies are detected.

(c) Railway monitors the catering services in railway canteens/trains through inspections at different levels and are making every endeavour to improve the quality and standard of food and beverages.

Passengers Travelling on Roofs of Coaches

†2099. DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of passengers found travelling on the roofs of coaches during the last two years; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to prevent such travel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) State-wise figures are not maintained However, as result of regular checks conducted against roof top travelling during the last two years i.e. 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, 3951 and 4242 persons respectively were apprehended.

(b) Roof top travelling is a punishable offence under the Railways Act. Apart from the regular checks, extensive publicity is given through various media including public address system to educate the travelling public about the perils of such travel. Notices are also displayed inside the compartments. The progressive electrification of railway routes is also a deterrent for such hazardous travel.

Interim Speed Certificate for Rail Rolling Stocks

2100. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the definition of Interim Speed Certificate issued to rolling stocks, prior to issuance of final speed certificate;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the rolling stock become eligible to operate, after issuance of the Interim Speed Certificate, with some restrictions; and

(c) if so, why the newly imported 140 T crane stationed at New Jalpaiguri could not be put into rescue operations at Gaisal accident on 2nd August, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) There is no such term in vogue as 'Interim Speed Certificate'. However, Provisional Speed Certificate is issued by the Motive Power Directorate of Research Designs and Standard Organisation (R.D.S.O.), Lucknow for any new type of rolling stock. This speed is ascertained based on the design features of the new stock after comparing it with similar stock already in service, duly consulting other Directorates of R.D.S.O. The provisional certificate stipulates the maximum speed up to which the new rolling stock can be run, till such time field trials are conducted and final speed certificates are issued. The Provisional Speed Certificate granted by R.D.S.O. is, therefore, only a recommendation in regard to the maximum speed at which a rolling stock can be permitted to run on a specified track structure under average/stipulated maintenance conditions and bridges built to specified standards till such time the final speed certificate is issued.

(b) The Provisional Speed Certificate is only a guideline issued by R.D.S.O. to the Zonal Railway. On the basis of this Certificate depending upon track and other conditions each Railway is required to process sanction to operate the rolling stock through the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

(c) The newly imported 140 Tonne crane stationed at New Jalpaiguri had been commissioned just 4 days before the occurrence of Gaisal accident. The operating staff was not fully familiar with the newly received crane. Further final approval from the Commissioner of Railway Safety was yet to be obtained. It is however, pointed out that adequate number of breakdown cranes located in the vicinity of Gaisal were made available for relief and rescue operations.

Unmanned Level Crossing in Karnataka

2101. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of unmanned level crossings in Karnataka; and

(b) what steps have been taken to prevent accidental deaths on these crossings?